

REMARKS

Claims 3-21 are pending in the application. In response to this Office Action claims 1 and 2 have been cancelled and claims 2-8, 10, 12 and 20 have been amended.

Rejection of Claims 1-21 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. All independent claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 and 12 have been amended to provide antecedent basis for the upper and lower apertures and upper and lower shields. Antecedent basis for the term “the cover plate screw” on line 42 of claim 1 is provided on line 6 of claim 1. Claims 10 and 20 have been amended in accordance with the Examiner’s remarks. In view of the amendments to the claims it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is satisfied and should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 1 under 35 USC 102

Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hill. Claim 1 has been canceled by this response and its limitations placed in allowable claim 3. In view of the cancellation of claim 1, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and thus should be withdrawn.

Rejection of Claim 6 under 35 USC 103

Claim 6 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over Hill in view of Delone.

Claim 6 has been amended to be dependent on amended claim 3. Claim 3 has been indicated as allowable if amended to include the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been amended to include the limitations of claim 1 and thus is now allowable. As Claim 6 has been amended to be dependent on allowable claim 3 it is also allowable. In view of the amendments to claims 3 and 6, it is respectfully submitted that this rejection is now moot and thus should be withdrawn.

Claim 12 has been indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and claims 2-5, 7-11 and 13-21 been indicated as allowable if amended to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph and to include the limitations of the base and any intervening claims. Claims 3, 4, 5, 7, 8 have all been placed in independent form including the base and any intervening claims and the claims have been amended in accordance with the Examiner's remarks to overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that these claims are now allowable.

As all claims (Claims 3-21) remaining in this application are now allowable, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner pass this application to issue.

The prior art made of record has been considered by the applicant. It is respectfully submitted that this application is patentable and unobvious over this prior art.

Also included with this response is an Associate Power of Attorney authorizing the undersigned attorney, Jackie Jay Schwartz, to act on behalf of the attorney of record.

Please charge \$117.00 to Deposit Account No. 500716 to cover the fee for 3 independent claims over the allowed limit of 3. Please charge any other fee due and not mentioned above to Deposit Account No. 500716.

Based upon the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner consider necessary or desirable any formal changes anywhere in the specification, claims and/or drawings, then it is respectfully asked that such changes be made by Examiner's amendment, if the Examiner feels this would facilitate passage of the case to issuance.

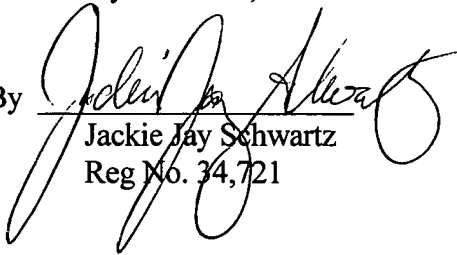
Alternatively, should the Examiner have any questions, comments, or feel that a personal discussion might be helpful in advancing this case to allowance and issuance, she is

cordially invited to contact Mr. Michael Kroll, Esq. at 171 Stillwell Lane, Syosset, New York 11791, telephone number (516) 367-7777, so that the present application can receive an early notice of allowance. The address and telephone number for Michael I. Kroll stated above is as listed on the original Power of Attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Leroy Patterson, Jr.

By


Jackie Jay Schwartz
Reg No. 34,721

Dated: June 18, 1999